John Armstrong

Changes in the Roman Missal strike up conversation

On The first Sunday in Advent, the new additions and changes to the Roman Missal took effect in English speaking parishes worldwide. These changes have been in discussion for some time, and the faculty and students have various opinions on these changes.

Up until the 1960’s, the mass was celebrated in Latin; however the Vatican II council provided an English translation of the Missal. This translation of the mass is still in use, but with a few changes in the responses and prayers. For example, when the priest says “The Lord be with you,” instead of the congregation replying with the usual “and also with you,” they must now say “And with you spirit.”

The Church’s reason for these changes is that it offers a more literal translation of the original Latin version. Sophomore Bryant King, who takes Latin, said, “The issue with these changes is that this more accurate translation includes language which is very formal and uncommon in everyday life. I feel that this makes the Mass less relatable to most young and new Catholics such as us.” He, along with many other students and some faculty, states that the changes are unnecessary.

Mrs. Tarney says “The only change I don’t care for is the penitential rite where we say ‘through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous faults. The rest of it is negligible.”

Although many of the students still don’t understand why the changes were made, there are some who find the changes a great thing. Patrick Gorospe said, “It will be a painstaking process to get used to the changes, but before everyone knows it, they’ll be saying it verbatim as if they had been doing it all along.”

Nicholas Andrade, a senior, said, “The translation they have had in other countries and languages is exactly what we have now in English. It’s hard to adjust to at first because we’ve been on that autopilot mode, but it’s always good to come off that autopilot.”

This adjustment will certainly take time, especially for those Parishioners who don’t attend mass regularly. Mrs. Tarney also said, “It will be funny at Christmas mass for the people who only go to holiday masses because they won’t know what we’re saying.”

It’s important to practice these changes because they are likely to stick around for a long while. Also they provide a translation that is closer to that of other countries, and it unites them. Although there are many who oppose to the changes, they will probably die down in the near future. Therefore if you attend mass often and listen attentively, before you know it you will be reciting responses without frustration.